(c) The Government has decided to grant new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences as per the existing policy.

Ratio of women employees in NIC

437. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the ratio of men and women employees in different NICs;

(b) whether there is an imbalance against the women employees; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to employ more women in NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The ratio of men and women employees of NIC is 233:50 (4.66:1).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Telephone facilities in Rajasthan

438. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the number of blocks, gram panchayats and villages covered under telephone facility in State of Rajasthan by BSNL;

(b) by when telephone facilities will be provided to all the villages of Rajasthan; and

(c) the measures taken for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 30-9-2007, Government has provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) to 34,554 villages including Gram Panchayats.

(b) and (c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for provision of VPTs in remaining 12,386 unconnected villages in Rajasthan. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 30-9-2007, out of 12,386 unconnected eligible villages in Rajasthan 10,696 villages have been provided with VPT facility and the remaining 1,690 villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by June, 2008.

Data thefts cases

†439. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) the number of data theft cases brought in the cognizance of Government during last three years;

(b) the action being taken in these cases; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.